



Westwood Lutheran Church ANNUAL MEETING Minutes

February 13, 2022 – 9:50 a.m.

Hybrid Meeting in Sanctuary and Livestream

- ✝ **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Jason Van Hunnik – Led a prayer of gratitude for the ministry and blessings in this congregation during the past year.
- ✝ **Call to Order:** President Laura Ramsborg – Discussed the logistics needed to hold “hybrid” meeting with some members present in the Sanctuary and some Online in other locations. Comments and votes may be made in person or by using the Chat or QR code. She announced that a quorum of at least 100 people were in attendance, so the requirement of the Constitution has been met and we can legally begin.
- ✝ **Rules of Order:** President Laura Ramsborg - Reported that Robert’s Rules of Order will be followed at the meeting and Karl Cambronne is our Parliamentarian for this event. With the Parliamentarian’s approval, Laura requested one motion be taken, following the Old Business, to approve four business items: 1. The Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, 2. The slate of nominees, 3. The Treasurer’s Report, 4. The 2022 Proposed Budget. Toby Biebl moved the motion, which was seconded and passed unanimously.
- ✝ **Secretary’s Report:** LaDonna Reynolds – Reported that the minutes of Feb. 7, 2021 Annual Meeting was published in the ENews and hard copies were available this morning for congregation review. She asked if there were any additions or corrections. Hearing none, she made the motion to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded and a vote will be taken after the Old Business is completed.
- ✝ **Pastors’ Report:** Pastor Tania - Thanked the congregation for the ministry and support of the past year. She highlighted the thoughtful work of the Church Council and the excellent staff. She alerted the congregation that the Parable of the Talents Challenge will return this Spring!
- Pastor Jason - Shared information regarding the Rise Early Childhood Center, which will open next year, and thanked the congregation for his sabbatical, coming this summer.
- ✝ **Council Report:** President Laura Ramsborg - Reviewed the work of the skilled Council and the courageous staff during the Covid challenges to our ministry. She highlighted the accomplishments of the past year.
- ✝ **Nominations Team:** Lanica Klein, Chair – She thanked the members of the Nominating Team for their diligent work in 2021 and read the following Slate of Nominees: Nomination Team for Year 1 of 2-year term: Deb Waldorf, Mark Zimmerman and Scott Hagen. Nomination Team for Year 2 of 2-year term: Lindsay Melander, Brenda Knutson and Luke Hoffman. Church Council: Gina Jacobson, Council Secretary – 4 year term; Nate Hanson and Anna Lovas, Council At Large- 3 year term. She made the motion to accept the Slate of Nominees to the positions and terms in office as stated. The motion was seconded and will be voted on following the Old Business.
- President Laura Ramsborg thanked all who have served in leadership roles in the past years, highlighting the ministry of LaDonna Reynolds, Council Secretary. Dan Aune and David Frank, Council At-Large members, Shelby Strauss, Lanica Klein and Kurt Koubal from the Nomination Team. She also thanked their families and the congregation for their support.
- ✝ **Ministry Minute:** Pastor Tania – Highlighted ministry of Jeanne Lutgen, who has been an active member in the Westwood Choir.
- ✝ **Treasurer’s Report:** David Hill – Reported that Westwood experienced a “strong and steady, positive year” in 2021! The annual internal audit for 2020 was completed in 2021 with no findings. David thanked the staff for all their efforts. He reviewed the slides found on the screen and also on our website in the Annual Report. The screens showed receipts and expenditures in the General Fund, the WECC, the Capital Fund, All

Are Welcome and the Prayer of Good Courage. He made the motion to approve the 2021 Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded. Voting to follow Old Business. The detailed report is on file in the church office.

✝ **2022 Proposed Budget:** Greg Brandt, Chair of Finance Management Advisory Group – Thanked the congregation and staff for an “outstanding” 2021 financial year, despite the Covid. He reviewed the 2022 budget found on the screen and also on our website in the Annual Report. He emphasized the proposed receipts and expenditures listed in the General Fund, WECC, Base Capital Fund, All Are Welcome and the Prayer of Good Courage Fund. He thanked the congregation for their support and gifts and made the motion to approve the 2022 Budget. The motion was seconded and will be voted on following the Old Business. The detailed report is on file in the church office.

✝ **Vote to Approve Old Business:** President Laura Ramsborg – Announced that the Old Business of the meeting is concluded and it is time to vote on the motions. She asked members to vote vocally or on-line with the QR code. Vote to approve the 2021 Minutes was unanimous YES. Vote to approve the Slate of Nominees was unanimous YES. Vote to approve the 2021 Treasurer's Report was unanimous YES. Vote to approve the 2022 Budget was unanimous YES.

✝ **BIG ROCKS Ministry:** Pastor Tania – Reminded congregation that our ministry focus from the past year will continue into the future which includes Vocation; Housing/Child Care; Interfaith Partnership, Racial Justice and Equity/ LGBTQIA.

✝ **Congregational Statistics:** Pastor Tania – Reviewed statistics on the screen, focused on attendance at weekly worship with emphasis on fewer “in-person” vs. larger “livestream” people worshipping.

✝ **Westwood Early Childhood Center Report:** Pastor Tania- Reported that Director Kellee Nelson is out of town this weekend, so she is giving her report. 2021 has been a challenging year in the WECC, due to Covid. Children and teachers have been ill, classrooms closed, but staff has worked hard to keep moving forward. Thanked the staff, the parents and the congregation for their tremendous support!

✝ **Ministry Minute:** Pastor Tania – Highlighted the Pladson Family. Kristen is one of the leaders on the WECC Advisory Team.

✝ **Community Partnerships:** Pastor Jason – This ministry was formerly referred to as “Outreach”. This ministry provided breakfast to children at Aquila Elementary School and the Park Spanish Immersion Program in SLP. The congregation spent \$165,000 in our Cause of the Month ministry and he commented on future support for the Rise Early Childhood Education Center.

✝ **Lutheran Memorial Foundation:** Beth Johnson, President and Chris Finseth, President-Elect – Report given through video. Grants of \$49,893 were given to support ministry at Westwood including salary of our Intern Pastor, music program, garden fund, tent rental, All Saints Sunday roses, technology and adult education fees. Memorials of over \$128,000 were received. She thanked the congregation for their support.

✝ **Ministry Minute:** Dannica Olsen, Children, Youth & Family Staff – Highlighted ministry of Eloise Bullen, who is a 7th grader, working to stop racism and an effective leader in Youth Ministry.

✝ **New Business:** President Laura Ramsborg – Asked congregation for any new business to discuss. None was offered.

✝ **Pastoral Transition Proposal:** President Laura Ramsborg – Reminded congregation of the three points of the proposal: 1. Pastor Tania moving to 2/3 time, beginning January 1, 2023. 2. Pastor Jason submits his name to be called as Senior Pastor, vote in fall of 2022. 3. Call a third pastor, early 2023. Congregation was invited to begin voting by paper ballot or QR code on screen. Voting will remain open until Saturday, Feb. 19 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will not adjourn until voting is completed. An 85% affirmation from those voting will approve the proposal. The results of this vote will be announced at the worship services next Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.

✝ **Prayer of Good Courage:** President Laura Ramsborg led the congregation in prayer to close.

✝ **Council Meeting Adjournment:** On Saturday, February 19, 2022 at 6:05 p.m., Council members Toby Biebl, President Elect, David Hill, Treasurer, LaDonna Reynolds, Secretary and Anna Martinez, At-Large, met with Pastor Jason over Zoom to officially close the Annual Meeting and the voting on the Staff Transition Proposal. David Hill made the motion to close the meeting and the voting, Anna Martinez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

✝ **Voting Results:** The congregational votes on the Staff Transition Proposal were received by paper ballots and on-line. All votes were tallied and totaled 444 votes. “YES” votes totaled 438; “NO” votes totaled 6. A threshold of 85% of those voting was required to affirm the Proposal. This vote affirmed the Proposal by 98.6%!!

LaDonna Reynolds will represent the Council and announce the voting results at both services on Sunday, February 20, 2022. Gratitude and Congratulations were extended to Westwood congregation and staff!!

Respectfully submitted by LaDonna Reynolds, Council Secretary